

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The abstract and specification are revised to overcome examiner's objection.

Claim 1 has been amended to more accurately define the invention claimed.

Langhjelm et al. (US Patent No. 3,521,795) discloses a dispenser comprising a tubular body fabricated from a flexible plastic material. The tubular body includes a main cylindrical body portion having a flared rearward end. The forward end of the tubular body is tapered radially inwardly and merges with a neck portion. The neck portion is externally threaded to receive an internally threaded cap. A dispensing opening is provided at one end and a plunger element is provided within the body.

Zakensberg (US Patent No. 5,826,737) discloses a recloseable container comprising an elongated shape container with a dispensing nozzle at one end. Above the dispensing nozzle is a tab. When the tab is broken off the container, the nozzle is opened. Adjacent to the nozzle is a hinged closure. The hinged closure has a shape complimentary to the nozzle and can be rotated on the hinge to overlap and close the container nozzle.

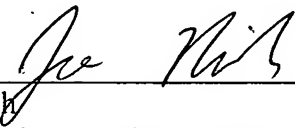
Dombroski et al. (US Patent No. 4,598,839) discloses a tamper evident squeeze tube comprising an elongated tube having flexible walls which is sealed at one end. An end cap is provided at the other end which comprises a neck having an opening therein to the interior of the tube and a frangible sealing member mounted across the opening for sealing the opening and indicating tampering with the contents. A cap is provided which is adapted to mount to the exterior of the neck. The sealing member is a flexible dome shaped member which is frangibly and integrally connected to the neck and has a tab attached to the exterior of the dome for removing the sealing member.

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Applicant's invention is an applicator with piston comprising an elongated tubular housing with a generally constant diameter from one end through the other end, as shown in Figure 1. A sealed applicator tip is enclosed at one end of the housing and a piston disposed near the other end of the housing with a liquid or viscous substance disposed between them. There is no end that is "tapered radially inwardly and merges with a neck portion" or "flared" as in Langhjem et al. An opening means in the form of a frangible line is provided at the location of the applicator tip which will allow the sealed end to be removed to expose the applicator tip. The liquid or viscous substance in the elongated tubular housing may be extracted through the applicator tip when the piston is urged towards the applicator tip by applying pressure on the elongated tubular housing with the user's finger from the end opposite from the liquid or viscous substance.

Applicant hereby submits that the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) have all been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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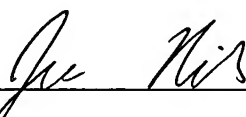
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